

Runaway & Homeless Youth Spending

(FY2021 Appropriation Act - Public Act 166 of 2020)

March 1, 2021

Sec. 461. (1) *From the funds appropriated in part 1 for runaway and homeless youth grants, the department shall maintain the recent \$500,000.00 state general fund/general purpose revenue increase to funding to support the runaway and homeless youth services program. The purpose of the additional funding is to support current programs for contracted providers that provide emergency shelter and services to homeless and runaway youth.*

(2) *From the funds appropriated in part 1 for runaway and homeless youth grants, the department shall allocate \$400,000.00 to support runaway and homeless youth services programs. The purpose of the additional funding is to support current programs for contracted providers that provide emergency shelter and services to homeless and runaway youth.*

(3) By March 1 of the current fiscal year, the department shall submit to the house and senate appropriations subcommittees on the department budget, the house and senate fiscal agencies, the house and senate policy offices, and the state budget office a report on the total amount expended for runaway and homeless youth services programs in the previous year, as well as the total number of shelter nights for youth provided.



Homeless Youth and Runaway Expenses and Bed Nights for FY20

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Homeless Youth and Runaway (HYR) program provides funding for two separate and distinct program types.

The Outreach and Basic Care program is voluntary and serves youth ages 12-17 who have run away from home, have been made to leave their home, or who are at risk of either of these situations. The primary goals of the program are to reunify the youth with their family as quickly as possible and to prevent the youth entering either the child welfare system or the juvenile justice system. Services provided by the Outreach and Basic Care program include:

- Outreach to youth and entities that have contact with youth (e.g., schools, law enforcement, community groups, other service agencies)
- Crisis intervention
- Case management
- Counseling (individual and family focus; group counseling if appropriate)
- Emergency shelter for up to 21 days (congregate care setting or foster-home model)
- Ninety days of runaway prevention and/or after care services

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, 586 total youth received some form of HYR services, while 460 of those youth were provided with 7,058 emergency shelter nights. Coronavirus required a recalibration of services, which included necessary reductions in the number of available shelter beds to ensure social distancing. Additionally, the overall number of youth and families accessing services declined as parents were reluctant to place their minor youth in congregate settings. With effective planning, only two programs had incidents where they had to do short-term shutdowns of crisis shelter services due to positive coronavirus cases. Programs shifted to telehealth crisis, case management, and counseling services to work with youth and families and worked creatively to try to maintain continuity of service for youth and families.

Total reimbursement for FY 2020 grants to service providers for all Outreach and Basic Care services was \$4,409,540.91.

The Transitional Living Program is voluntary and serves youth ages 17-21 who are unable to return home and who are not currently a part of either the child welfare system or the juvenile justice system. The primary goal of the program is to provide youth with the necessary supports to be able to transition successfully to adulthood. Services provided by the Transitional Living Program include:

- Outreach to youth and entities that have contact with youth (e.g., schools, law enforcement, community groups, other service agencies)
- Crisis intervention

- Case management with a focus on linking youth to:
 - Educational opportunities
 - Employment opportunities
- Life-skills education (e.g., tenant/landlord, budgeting, health relationships)
- Counseling (focus on individual with group and family available, if appropriate)
- Housing continuum based on provider capacity and youth needs.

Housing options within the Transitional Living Program may include host-homes, agency staffed congregate care, and agency supported scattered site apartments. In some circumstances, youth may receive supportive services (e.g., case management, counseling, life-skills education) while living in their own apartment, in an effort to ensure youth at risk remain housed. Youth may access services for 18 months, or up to 21 months in exceptional circumstances.

In FY 2020, 219 total youth received a 23,906 night of housing supports, with 174 of those youth receiving 12,341 nights of congregate shelter housing. Transitional Living Programs faced issues similar to Outreach and Basic Care Programs due to the coronavirus. Congregate shelters adjusted bedroom layout and the number of rooms available to meet expectations for allowing safe distancing for youth.

Total contractual costs to service providers for all Transitional Living Program services provided during FY 2020 was \$2,040,363.29.